

**From:** "Jon Epstein" <epstein@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Sent:** 12/10/2018 1:28:02 PM (-08:00)  
**To:** "Brian Bird" <bhbird@ucdavis.edu>  
**Cc:** "Jonna Mazet" <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>; "Anthony, Simon J." <sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu>; "Jim Desmond" <desmond@ecohealthalliance.org>; "Peter Daszak" <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>; "Tracey Goldstein" <tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu>; "Corina Grigorescu Monagin" <cgmonagin@ucdavis.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: PREDICT result

Thanks, Brian. We'll keep moving on our end.  
-Jon

Jonathan Epstein DVM, MPH, PhD

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On Dec 10, 2018 3:55 PM, "Brian Bird" <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

We are in active engagement with them at a variety of levels and moving forward rapidly.

I agree with Jonna and think a three-country briefing makes sense once the Liberian channels of information flow are clarified and the GoL is brought up to speed.

-b

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**From:** Jon Epstein <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Date:** Monday, December 10, 2018 at 11:15 AM  
**To:** Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>  
**Cc:** Brian Bird <[bhbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bhbird@ucdavis.edu)>, Simon Anthony <[sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu)>, Jim Desmond <[desmond@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:desmond@ecohealthalliance.org)>, Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>, Tracey Goldstein <[tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu)>, Corina Grigorescu Monagin <[cgmonagin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cgmonagin@ucdavis.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: PREDICT result

Jonna and Brian,

Where are you in the communications process with the Marburg finding and the SL govt?

-Jon

On Mon, Dec 10, 2018 at 12:42 PM Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

Any news? I need to get something to Andrew & was waiting to see your follow-up communications to add to the memo and inform on what the likely path forward will be.

As part of another communication, he has asked

"...does the Mission and/or PREDICT team in Liberia know of the recent findings from that country?

Also, seems like it would be a good idea at some point to have PREDICT and USAID brief the missions in the 3 EHP countries so they are aware of the findings from each other's country. As mentioned in the SL summary, the other two countries are also likely to have the same virus given the presence of the bat host."

So we all may need to get prepared to put together a three-country briefing on Bombali, Marburg & Ebola Zaire.

Please advise on communication progress ASAP -- thanks,

J

On Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 10:28 AM Jon Epstein <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)> wrote:

Hi,

I emailed Dr. Fallah this morning and just added the part about having someone come over in a second email.

I'll let you know when he responds.

Cheers,

Jon

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jon Epstein** <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)>

Date: Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 1:25 PM

Subject: Re: PREDICT result

To: Mosoka Fallah <[mosoka.fallah@yale.edu](mailto:mosoka.fallah@yale.edu)>

Cc: Jim Desmond <[desmond@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:desmond@ecohealthalliance.org)>, Tolbert NYENSWAH, MPH

<[tolbert.nyenswah@yale.edu](mailto:tolbert.nyenswah@yale.edu)>

Dr. Fallah,

I also wanted to add that we can work together to arrange for one of your laboratory staff to travel to New York for the continued sample analysis, as we discussed.

We can work out the details once we connect.

Cheers,

Jon

On Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 10:54 AM Jon Epstein <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)> wrote:

Hi Dr. Fallah,

I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Cheers,

Jon

On Tue, Dec 4, 2018 at 1:03 PM Jon Epstein <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)> wrote:

Thank you, Tolbert.

I'll await Dr. Fallah's reply.

Cheers,

Jon

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On Tue, Dec 4, 2018, 1:17 AM Tolbert NYENSWAH,MPH <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Jon

Thank you. I will refer to Dr. Fallah to respond on our behalf.

Tolbert

On Mon, Dec 3, 2018, 11:16 PM Jon Epstein <[epstein@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:epstein@ecohealthalliance.org)> wrote:

Dear Director Tolbert,

I hope you are well. I wanted to follow up from our meeting on October 24th where we discussed results from our bat samples. As a reminder, we identified Ebola virus (*Zaire ebolavirus*) genetic material in an oral swab from a bat, but we were only able to sequence part of the genome. Since the initial testing exhausted all of the sample

material from the first swab, we discussed testing of additional samples from this positive bat, which could allow us to try to obtain the complete genome of the virus so that we can accurately identify the strain.

As we agreed, we are preparing to do the additional testing of the bat's oral swab and other duplicate samples at our PREDICT partner lab at the Center for Infection and Immunity (CII) at Columbia University in New York. In order to ship these additional samples, we obtained an export permit from FDA, and the samples were shipped to CII last week. We will perform the additional testing on the oral swab sample, however, there is also a rectal swab sample from this bat, which was sent to CII and which will be stored there securely. What would you like us to do with any remaining sample materials should they not be exhausted in the next steps of testing?

As you know, the samples have been collected, processed and shipped according to appropriate permits. Given the finding and in anticipation of the results of further characterization, we want to check to see that you or other appropriate ministry representatives don't want or need any additional paperwork from us. Do you think an MTA is appropriate to cover the transfer of the samples and their use? We will be happy to comply with whatever additional documentation you think is appropriate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonathan Epstein

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Jonathan H. Epstein DVM, MPH, PhD

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*EcoHealth Alliance leads cutting-edge scientific research into the critical connections between human and wildlife health and delicate ecosystems. With this science, we develop solutions that prevent pandemics and promote conservation.*

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